

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 502

By Massey

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of John Madison and  
Harriet Chapin Smartt of Knoxville.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of John and Harriet Smartt, a couple who gave freely of their time and talents in the community; and

WHEREAS, John and Harriet Smartt were exemplary public servants and consummate professionals who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for their fellow citizens by participating in FISH hospitality pantries, the United Way, and the Salvation Army, as well as many other causes; and

WHEREAS, born in Lexington, Kentucky on November 16, 1921, to Priscilla Duncan Chapin and Arthur Sterling Chapin, Harriet Smartt grew up in Greeneville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Smartt received a degree in childhood development from University of Tennessee, where she was a member of the Kappa Delta sorority and where she was selected as a Torchbearer, the highest student recognition for overall excellence; and

WHEREAS, John Madison Smartt was born on February 24, 1919, to Alam Rogglie Smartt and Robert W. Smartt of McMinnville, Tennessee; and

WHEREAS, he attended University of Tennessee, where he was a charter member of Omicron Delta Kappa, president of the Independent Student Association, and graduated with a Bachelor of Science in agriculture 1942. He later received a law degree from the University of Tennessee in 1948 after serving as an Army officer during World War II in the Aleutian Islands; and

WHEREAS, both Mr. and Mrs. Smartt took a strong interest in the education of their community: John through his work with the University of Tennessee Alumni Association from 1948-1969 and Harriet through her close participation in many PTA groups; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Smartt were active and devout members of the Second Presbyterian Church in Knoxville beginning in 1950, and both served as Sunday School teachers, as well as participating as elders and deacons; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Smartt was an active participant in the Senior Olympics from 1980-2012, winning fifth place in the 75-79 age group in the 1995 National Senior Games; and

WHEREAS, he was chosen to carry the Olympic torch in 1996 when it passed through Knoxville on its way to Atlanta; and

WHEREAS, they both worked actively in bettering their community without allowing themselves to be limited by their age; Mrs. Smartt worked for the Habitat for Humanity Thrift Store in her 90th year, and Mr. Smartt by continuing fund raising for the Kiwanis Fresh-Air camp; and

WHEREAS, the couple is survived by their four children: John Smartt Jr. (Paula), Jane "Sadie" Strout (David), Doug Smartt (Caroline), and Bob Smartt (Mary Carole); they are also survived by 13 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful lives of these exceptional public servants and human beings; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor the memory of John and Harriet Smartt, reflecting fondly upon their impeccable characters and their stalwart commitment to betterment of their community.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mr. and Mrs. Smartt.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.